



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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FOR INFORMATION CALL
Lynne Weil (202) 225-6735

Lantos Decries Federal Government's Evident Inaction To Bring Spiraling Gasoline Prices Back Down

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo, San Francisco) has joined in an appeal to the Bush Administration to stop filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), and to take other steps to bring the price of gasoline down.

"People are paying record amounts at the pump in California and across the country," Lantos said. "Our government has the resources to remedy the price spiral right away, and gradually to improve our energy policies so that gas consumption and cost will decline in the future. But under the current Administration, we are not putting those resources to use."

Lantos has joined other members of the House of Representatives in a letter today calling on the Bush Administration to stop filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which takes oil out of the market and drives prices higher. The letter also calls on President Bush to press for strong fuel economy standards, thereby helping to reduce gas usage and decrease demand for gas.

Lantos, a senior member of the House Government Reform Committee, has previously called for the creation of a national energy plan that will reduce U.S. dependence on oil, both for the sake of the environment and national security, and has taken part in Congressional initiatives urging increased funding for various renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.

"Our reliance on foreign oil is a national security issue," Lantos said. "Many of the nations from which we import over 52% of our oil are politically unstable and structurally unreliable, putting our nation in a precarious position. Keeping in mind our current need for oil and the important role it plays in our economy, we must nevertheless begin to wean ourselves off this unhealthy addiction."

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